

January-April 2005

A Library for the 21st Century

Ellet Pride, Police Traditions And Landmark Architecture



Never was autumn more ablaze than this past fall at Lock 3 along the Ohio-Erie Canal Towpath.

From City Hall...A Great, Small World

How small has the world become? The last few months have given me reasons to believe that it is smaller than most of us would have ever guessed.

In September, I met with mayors from all over Poland, and I had the privilege of addressing European mayors at a United Nations meeting in Barcelona, Spain. In October, I sat with mayors from Normandy at a table in Nantes, France. In November, I traveled back to Europe to attend a meeting with mayors from western and eastern Europe alike; then I was sent by the U.S. Conference of Mayors to the other side of the globe to meet with Pacific Rim mayors in Tokyo.

These travels are part of being President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors this year, and what I'm discovering is that there are a lot of similarities in the job of being mayor of a small town in France, a medium-sized town in Poland or a metropolis in Japan.

Mayors around the world have the same first job — taking care of community needs. We all have new housing to build, sewers to

replace and less-congested roads to design. (But not every mayor has the kind of potholes to fill that mayors in northeast Ohio do!)

And close behind the building and rebuilding of our infrastructure is taking care of people's basic needs. Mayors around the world have homeless who need shelter and food, children who need the best education we can afford and, most important, willing workers who want jobs to support their families.

It's one thing for our national leaders to hold high-level diplomatic discussions among the world's foreign ministers, but I must tell you that we are probably doing as much to establish world peace and increase global relationships when we as mayors get together to share common concerns. When mayors from around the world talk at these basic levels, we have more in common with one another than we have differences.

And never has our mutual desire for peace been brought home to me more dramatically than when I stood on Omaha Beach last fall. I recalled the sacrifices made by The Greatest Generation. A few weeks later, I stood at the world's first "ground zero" in Hiroshima, Japan. These were sobering moments that reminded me that we cannot say thank you too often to the men and women who serve us in uniform around the world.

You might ask (and some do) who is running the City of Akron when I'm in Warsaw, Barcelona or Tokyo? Well, the answer is — me. That's another way the world has shrunk — with today's modern technology, no matter where in the world I might be working, I'm in touch with my staff on a regular basis.

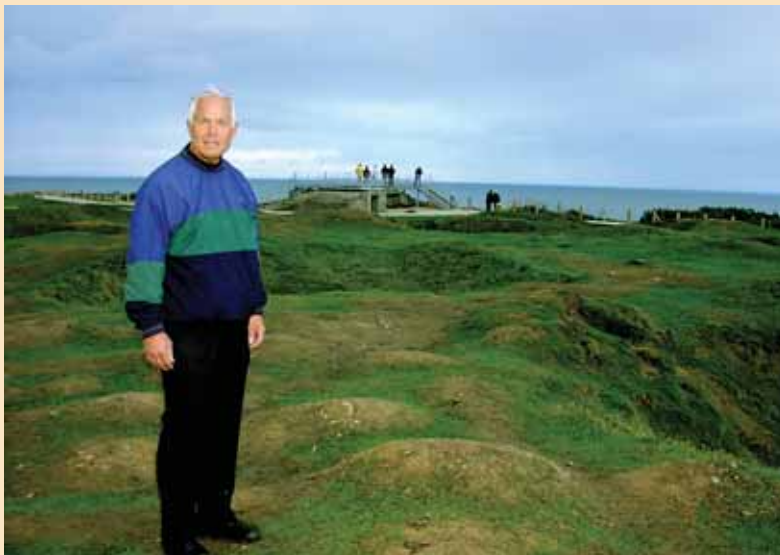


The world has come to Akron this holiday season — at the new Holidayfest in Downtown Akron. More than 60 craftsmen, athletes and entertainers from our sister city of Chemnitz, Germany, are lighting up Lock 3 Park this December. We're grateful to the many volunteers who helped us construct the German village at Lock 3, and who have helped host our visitors.

We prize our relationship with Chemnitz, and we have welcomed the German companies that have made a home in Greater Akron in the past decade. With the Greater Akron Chamber, we have worked hard to attract European employers to locate their U.S. operations in our community. As a result, Akron has placed in the top 15 of all U.S. cities in new European investment over the past four years.

As we enter 2005, my family and I send holiday wishes for peace and a joyful new year to all of you. 🍷

Donald L. Plusquellic



Mayor Plusquellic visits Omaha Beach in Normandy while on economic mission to European cities.

Akron City

Akron City is produced three times a year by the City of Akron Communications Department. The magazine and recycling calendar is distributed by U.S. mail to all residents of Akron by Keep Akron Beautiful, a not-for-profit corporation in the state of Ohio.

Additional copies of the magazine and recycling calendar are available through the Department of Communications, Mayor's Office, 166 South High Street, Akron, OH 44308.

Our Cover Photo...

...is **Bruce Ford's** of Akron's new Main Library on South Main Street at night..

Tell us what you think by replying to editor@ci.akron.oh.us

Or share your thoughts with the mayor at mayor@ci.akron.oh.us

Published by the City of Akron Department of Communications, Mark Williamson, director.

Publication services provided by Live Publishing Company.

Project Coordinator *Dave Lieberth*

Photographer *Bruce Ford*

Art Direction and Design *Blink Concept & Design, Inc.*

Contributors
*Russ Musarra
 Chuck Ayers
 Joe McKenna
 Dave Lieberth
 Mark Williamson
 Billy Soule
 Victoria Reynolds*

Distributed by Keep Akron Beautiful, a not-for-profit corporation, Paula Davis, director.
 850 E. Market Street
 330-375-2116
 e-mail: KeepAkronBeautiful@ci.akron.oh.us

Table of Contents

4 Ellet Pride
A notable neighborhood



5 A Dog's Life
Parkin' the pooch



6 Online Tax Filing
Akron makes it easy



8 This is Akron
Halloween, Christmas at Lock 3 and more



10 Booklovers' Dream
Visiting the new library



11 Police Story
Uncovering APD history



14 Incubator
Jump-starting businesses



Neighborhoods



A Close-Knit Neighborhood

Two words describe community — Ellet pride
By Victoria Reynolds

At the far eastern edge of Akron, a quiet, close-knit community called Ellet boasts well-kept homes populated principally by families who consider themselves middle-class. Bordering Mogadore at the east and Springfield at the south, Ellet lists its dominant age group as 20-44 – but there's a pleasant balance of retirees, empty-nesters and young families.

In this inter-generational, family-oriented community, residents' roots run deep. Most of Ellet's inhabitants grew up there. Ask Akron City Councilwoman Terry Albanese why they stay, and she replies, "Ellet pride."

"Lots of people live here because their parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren do," she says, noting that 40 percent of Ellet households have children under age 18 living with them. "The people of Ellet also see themselves as their own separate city, and they're very proud of it."

Although Ellet petitioned the City of Akron for annexation in 1929, this community has retained many small-town traits. Picture springtime Saturdays punctuated by whirring lawn mowers on residential streets. Summer afternoon strolls to Strickland's frozen custard stand. Spirited fall football games of "the Fighting Orangemen." Winter warm-ups at Ellet Community Center.

In contrast to the Mayberry mindset, Ellet is actually one of Akron's larger residential neighborhoods, with 8.4 percent of its population and 8.7 percent of its households (2000 Census). There has been upscale new development. One of every 11 houses in Ellet today was built after 1990. Consequentially, Ellet's housing market is considerably newer than that of the rest of Akron.

Highlights of new Ellet housing include such developments as Mill Race, Cedar



The Ellet Recreation Center



Terry Albanese

"The people of Ellet also see themselves as their own separate city, and they're very proud of it."

Creek, Cherrywood, and Eastgate Commons. But most of the available land has now been spoken for, so housing construction has been curbed.

"Over time, Ellet has remained a very stable neighborhood because many people have bought older homes and have renovated, remodeled and updated," says Albanese,

referring to substantial single-family housing ranging from bungalows, Cape Cods and colonials to grand homes where Goodyear VIPs lived in the 1950s and 1960s. All around, home values remain high.

Other Ellet landmarks include the Rubber Bowl, the Airdock, and Akron Municipal Airport. There's an industrial park, strip retail development along Canton Road, and a mostly commercial East Market Street. Substantial new retail redevelopment has also sprouted south of Hyre Park.

Albanese, who grew up in Goodyear Heights but moved here when she married her Ellet-born-and-raised spouse, says she'll likely be a lifer like most Ellet residents. 



Dog Park is something for Akron's four-legged residents to bark about.

At This Akron Park, It Really Is A Dog's Life

By Mark Williamson



Some people may have thought that the City was barking up the wrong tree when it unleashed plans last spring to create a park just for dogs and their owners. But in a community renowned for beautiful recreational facilities, Akron's new Dog Park made sense...as thousands of visitors have proved in just two months. Call it a pent-up demand.

Located on Memorial Parkway at Uhler Avenue, the dog park is the destination for hundreds of canines and their owners, from dawn to dusk every day. Parking actually overflows into the lot that hikers, bikers and joggers use to reach the adjacent Towpath Trail.

One in three Americans owns a dog. More and more communities are adding dog parks. Akron's is the third park of its kind in Ohio.

Dogs and their owners get to socialize, and the parks provide safe, legal areas for dogs to exercise off-leash. The activity and the socialization help maintain a dog's health and behavior.

Dog owners can develop lifelong friendships, meet neighbors and often establish business contacts during regular visits to the park. Cities find dog parks can strengthen community and are an excellent way to increase property values, reduce crime and significantly improve the quality of life for


their citizens.

For this park, the City built the fences and installed waterlines. Maintenance and cleanup are tended to by BARC (Better Akron Recreation for Canines). BARC worked with the City and Councilman Dan Horrigan (D-1) to create the park, which comes complete with posted rules, waste containers (and baggies), benches, water fountains and the fenced-in area where dogs run free and get to know each other.

Park visitors are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. The park goes through as many as 800 plastic bags in just a few days.

And the park is rarely empty, except at dark.

Jennifer Conn, vice president of the BARC board of trustees, says the park has created "a whole new culture for Akron." Board President Amanda Foust says it is plain that Akron needed something like this. "For folks who want their dogs to be able to socialize and play off-leash somewhere safe, this is perfect. And people without dogs often come just to watch the dogs romp because it's so much fun. BARC would like to continue to open other park locations in the City."

BARC has also expressed a need for more sponsors because the organization would like to see additional benches and lighting for those die-hard park-users who would like to bring their dogs after work in the winter. 

Neighborhoods

Highland Square



The Trecasos' not-so-secret ingredients of success (left to right): Mallory, Meghann, Michael II, Michael G., Michele and Meredith. Not pictured is Melissa.

Mary Coyle's Secret: Quality Is A Constant

When Michael Trecaso was 15, he served sandwiches, burgers, fries and ice cream at a favorite Akron eatery called Mary Coyle — founded in 1937 by Mary and Walter "Buck" Coyle.

Back then, the short-order cook boasted he'd someday buy the place. He did in 1987.


Today, Trecaso serves up tasty scoops of ice cream in some 30 flavors. And as former owner of Michael Trecaso's Italian Restaurant in Akron, this "prince of pasta" has expanded the Mary Coyle menu with scrumptious imported noodles topped with his award-winning sauce.

Trecaso charms every customer to Mary Coyle, at 780 W. Market Street. Trecaso boasts that his is one of the oldest restaurants in Akron.

"You hear everybody say, 'We only use top quality products,' but with us, it's absolutely true," he says. "We make it all right here in the store, the same way they did in 1937."

Trecaso's entire, gregarious family is also credited for the venue's longevity — because they all work behind the counter and in the kitchen (see photo).

Speaking of that counter, the overall décor of the place is much the same since the doors opened.

Along with Trecaso, that's part of the charm. 

Online Tax Filing Is Saving City



City of Akron webmaster Jim Jones has been responsible for developing the city's website to permit easy, electronic filing by over 60,000 customers a year.

The City of Akron has applied the power of the Internet to the filing of income tax, saving dollars in the city budget as well as hours of residents' time.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for businesses and so-called web filings for individuals don't magically reduce tax obligations. Nonetheless, when EFT payments — the electronically filed municipal taxes that have been withheld from employees' wages — are included with web filings, the City can boast that electronic filings account for more than 78 percent of the \$100 million-plus that the Income Tax Division collects to support the municipal budget.

"First, there is the benefit to the taxpayer, and then there is the benefit to the city," explains Tax Commissioner Ed Cole. "The benefit to the taxpayer is not having to bother with paperwork while having the ability to use this service 24/7. The benefit

to the city is that when the taxpayer enters the information through his or her computer, we don't have to re-key the information at our end. It saves also prepping on our part, which is a real time-saver. It easily saves hundreds of hours."

Likewise for the digital processing of EFT transactions, considering that business-tax transactions add up to a whopping 4,500 a month.

Ahead of the curve

Cole points out that the city can also boast being far ahead of other communities when it comes to the digital processing of tax funds, adding that his department "has strived to be on the cutting edge of the

Dollars, Citizens' Time

By Joe McKenna

technology boom" since the mid-1990s.

"When we started, we couldn't even find a product on the market [to allow us to offer online transactions]," says Cole, who served as deputy commissioner when the department was first developing its cyberspace services. "And we're still ahead of other communities in terms of offering such services."

A former member of the banking industry, Cole is quick to emphasize that the online offerings would have never existed without the efforts of City webmaster Jim Jones.

"We had to think through all of the security issues, that we didn't leave any 'back doors' open in that regard," Cole says. "Without Jim, we couldn't have accomplished it."

Service, security

What the City of Akron also has, particularly in terms of web filing, is an easy-to-use process that emphasizes service as well as security.

Eligible to file are nearly 60,000 residents — those who can file the Short Form (even if tax is owed). Tax preparers may also file if the client is eligible to file the Short Form. Ineligible to file are businesses, those filing

for refunds and individuals with business or rental income.

Cole's department offers six strong reasons to use web filing:

- It's easy.
- Offering 24/7 access and the ability to accept MasterCard or Visa payments, it's convenient.
- Thanks to VeriSign encryption and personal filing codes, it's extremely secure.
- It automatically accounts for estimated payments that have been made and credit figures from previous years.
- It calculates the correct tax due.
- It allows for limited online tax-account maintenance.

While the number of those opting to web file increases every year, Cole hopes that even more Akron residents will create a cyber-groundswell in terms of paying their taxes on-line. In time, word-of-mouth advertising might do just that.

"It's interesting to see the kinds of e-mail we get," Cole reports. "One even thanked us for allowing the person to file his mother's tax return from Australia." 

"First, there is the benefit to the taxpayer, and then there is the benefit to the city," explains Tax Commissioner Ed Cole. "The benefit to the taxpayer is not having to bother with paperwork while having the ability to use this service 24/7. The benefit to the city is that when the taxpayer enters the information through his or her computer, we don't have to re-key the information at our end. It saves also prepping on our part, which is a real time-saver. It easily saves hundreds of hours."

How do you use Akron's web filing program?

1 With your City of Akron income tax account number in hand, Personal Filing Code (assigned by the Income Tax Division), and your W-2s, sign on to our website at and click on Web Filing.

2 Complete a short eligibility checklist and enter the tax filing program. It's simple. Follow the prompts. Much of the form completes itself from official tax records. You will have to enter your Social Security number and W-2 information, print a copy for your records and click on the submit button to file your return.

What about troubleshooting?

1. Help screens
2. FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)
3. Staff assistance by phone or e-mail (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays)



Akron's Income Tax Commissioner Ed Cole (right) and former deputy Brian Nelsen (left) stand among confidential income tax files that they hope will become historical curiosities.



Akron's new Dog Park on Memorial Parkway hosted a canine Halloween party for dogs and their owners. Beautiful weather and colorful costumes promise to make this an annual event each autumn.



This is A



29 Mayors from around the country came to Akron for the Fall Leadership Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The White House was also represented, along with officials from the Department of Homeland Security and the National Center for Disease Control, all of whose representatives updated the mayors on policy issues.





Volunteers from 5 Akron contractors enjoyed summer-like weather in October as they constructed authentic German cottages for the Christkindl Market (Nov. 27 - Dec.31) at Lock 3. Mark Fowler of Allen Keith Construction Co. cuts out a pattern (upper left) while Don Snyder measures twice (circle inset above). Carter-Jones, Graves Lumber, Dies Electric, and Lowe's donated materials. Other companies that donated labor included Thomarios, Advanced Disaster Solutions, Belfor USA, Design Restoration & Reconstruction, Inc., and J. Bowers Construction.



A red-letter day in Akron history, when the community's "old guard" met the new leadership on the stage of the Civic Theatre. Consultant Rebecca Ryan shared results of meetings with Akron's young professionals. The initiative, sponsored by the Greater Akron Chamber is designed to attract and retain 24-39 year olds in the community. One suggestion: invite young people to the table when decisions about the community's future are being made.



AKRON

Photos by Bruce Ford



The 2nd Annual Roadrunner Akron Marathon attracted over 4,000 participants on what started out to be a rainy day in Akron, Oct. 2, 2004. This year's starting line was on Broadway (far left), and once again, there were plenty of supporters for all the marathoners and relay teams (center.) Again this year, Mayor Plusquellic was the official starter for the Children's Fun Run (below) which brought some 1,500 kids and their parents to the Towpath along the Ohio-Erie Canal. The kids used the Towpath to pass Canal Park, where the Marathon finish line posted new record times (left center).



Grocery's Debut Is Really Super




The smiles tell the story. After a decade of waiting, East Akron has a full-service grocery store. Customer Tanya Phillips

(above) checks out a cart full of groceries on opening day. Owner Burt Salzman (left) and East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation President Grady Appleton (right) are ready to lend a hand.

Dave's Supermarket, a successful grocery chain based in Cleveland, built its Akron store as part of the Middlebury Marketplace Development on East Exchange Street at South Arlington. Next up: eight new retail stores featuring sandwiches, clothing, a laundry, a tax service and a general merchandise store.

Block Club president Ethel Chambers (below) was present for the opening and lauded City Government and Dave's management for making the residents' dream come true.



Dave's Supermarket will serve the new University Park area as it develops new housing and new business near the campuses of the University of Akron and Summa Health System. 



The Main Library's new reading room features abundant natural light and computer stations accessible by everyone.

Rejuvenated Libraries Speak Volumes To Their Patrons

By Victoria Reynolds

For decades, the City of Akron and Summit County have diligently endeavored to accommodate the area's growing need for library facilities and services, working with numerous organizations and individuals to keep shelves stocked and minds engaged.

In turn, the public has shown its support. Most notably, voters approved an \$80 million bond issue in 1997 to replace or renovate the main library in downtown Akron and 15 of the county's existing 18 branch libraries.

Last October, an estimated 10,000 people attended the dedication of the 270,000-square-foot main library, at the corner of East Mill and South Main streets.

David Jennings, interim library director, notes that the \$57 million library is receiving rave reviews from patrons. The public also praises the 10 new library branches that have celebrated grand openings since 1997.


In 1999, construction concluded for the Ellet, Goodyear, Green, Nordon Hills, Mogadore and Odom Boulevard branches. In 2000 the Tallmadge branch opened, and

in 2001 Maple Valley and Richfield were completed. In 2002, Northwest Akron (formerly the Ayers Branch) opened. In 2004, the Fairlawn-Bath, Firestone Park and North Hill branches opened their doors.

"It's a wonderful thing to participate in and witness how these new facilities and services are received extremely well and embraced by the community," says Jennings. "We've still got two more to go – Kenmore and West Hill – and we're working very hard to get those done, with the goal to break ground on the two buildings in 2005."

Jennings notes that the typical branch library costs about \$2.15 million to build.

"We usually build a 12,000-square-foot branch library to replace the 4,000-square-foot buildings that were built in the 1950s," he says. "To decide what's best for the community, we work with political leaders in the city and in the county, and we also to get the best location in terms of the economics."

For detailed information about the main library and community branches, visit the library's extensive website at <http://akronlibrary.org/> 

Newton Crossing: City Homeowners And Market Rates

Newton Crossing Development brings right back where Mayor Don Plusquellic says it belongs — "in the heart of the city."

Just ask Gregory and Celeste Williams, with builder Rim Burandt, as they stand in the driveway of their new home on Honodle Avenue (see photo) The home, part of the brand-new development, is the 74th built through a collaboration of the City of Akron and the



Home Builders Association over the past several years.


Mayor Don Plusquellic, who spoke at a news conference to open the new development last November, said: "Market-rate housing is viable, and these projects

prove that."

The city's investment is \$4 million in property acquisition and roadway improvements. Homes have three bedrooms, full and half baths and two-car garages. Prices

start at \$115,000, but most homes will sell for more than \$125,000.

Newton Crossings brought together 13 builders to work on 38 homes: Testa Builders, Nicely Built Homes, UAE Corp., E.G. Ayers, Ken Gillespie Building Co., Marochino Construction Co., Steve's Best Built Homes, Pioneer Builders, Bailey Construction, Mosely Building Company, Ederer Construction, Ohio Premier Homes and Rembrandt Builders.

For more information, contact the Home Builders Association at 330-869-6800. 

City Employees Recognized For Their Service, Heroism

Every day of the year, the employees of the City of Akron are working hard to make life safer, healthier and generally more enjoyable for residents. Sometimes, employees' efforts translate into widely recognized works of excellence. Sometimes, they are elevated into genuine acts of heroism. All the time, the efforts of City employees are directed toward making Akron a great place to live.

Not every employee can be the kind of hero that Fire Department Public Information Officer **Al Bragg** turned out to be when his vacation was interrupted. Al was traveling on a Continental Airlines flight to Las Vegas when Elyria resident Lisa Godbolt fainted mid-air, 90-minutes from the airport. Al employed his EMT training, checking blood pressure and pulse and asking the right questions, and persuaded flight attendants to allow her to lie down until airport rescue teams entered the aircraft and took over.

MIS employee **Terry Phillips** will receive the Senior's Advocate Award from the Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition. He assisted in the rescue of an elderly woman in 2004 who was without electricity.

It was another year, another award for the **City of Akron's Design Staff**. The American Society of Landscape Architects recognized the Confluence Regional Park Master Plan with a statewide Honor Award. Congratulations to manager Tom Long and his staff.

The City's Finance Department received the 2004 Ohio Government Finance Officers Association Award for the innovative approach required to put into place the system for financing construction of Akron Public Schools \$700 million rebuilding program. Cathy Watson and Diane Miller-Dawson were honored by the statewide group.




The nautilus-like staircase at the Market-High Street parking deck has been honored for excellence by the American Institute of Architects.

Akron's Water Pollution Control Division celebrated its 75th anniversary with a Silver Award from the American Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies for "Peak Performance." The team was recognized for its superb work in treating 78 million gallons of sewage each day. In addition, it was praised for keeping sewage treatment operational even when the Cuyahoga River nearly reached its 100-year flood stage in July 2003 and when the region sustained a massive blackout a month later. Plant Administrator **Brian Gresser** was named by the Ohio Water Environment Association as its recipient of their prestigious Dean Stewart Award for outstanding work.

Akron Police Department Capt. Elizabeth Daugherty graduated from the FBI National Academy. **Lt. Chip Westfall, Stephen Phillips, and Rosalyn Harris** graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College. **Lt. Sylvia Trundle**, who as Public Information Officer is a familiar face to TV viewers, became a Certified Law Enforcement Executive Graduate along with **Lt. Michael Caprez. Sgt. Cynthia Christman** graduated from the Child and Family Leadership Exchange.

City Engineer David Celik led a staff that received a number of honors this year. The Portage Path bridge in the Merriman Valley won the American Society of Highway Engineers 2004 Outstanding Highway Project Award (\$1 million+). *Golf Digest* featured Akron's Mud Run Golf Course as its Junior Development Award winner. Other feats by the Engineering Bureau included an award of excellence from

the Ohio Concrete Construction Association for the new High Street Viaduct, and the new interchange at White Pond drive and Mull Avenue was selected as a recipient of the American Council of Engineering Companies "Excellence" Award. The American Institute of Architects Design Awards went top the Northwest Community Center and the parking deck at High Street and East Market.

In April, the **Akron Weights and Measures Division and Superintendent Ron Miletich** was presented the Gallo Award by the Ohio Weights and Measures Association for excellence in administration, enforcement, training, and promotion. 

History

Badge Tells Arresting Tale Of APD

By Dave Lieberth

A lot of people might be accused of making their work their hobby. In the case of one Akron police officer, he summoned his investigative skills recently to solve a puzzle that took shape on the popular auction Website eBay.

Sgt. Tom Dye collects Akron police memorabilia — patches, badges and pictures — of officers who built the Akron Police Department (APD) over the past century.

“Because of the nature of police work,” Dye says, “officers are often present during history-making events. I like to collect old Akron Police badges because they were worn by officers who lived and witnessed Akron’s early history.”

Dye purchased a first-issue sergeant’s badge on eBay. That led Dye to bookseller Frank Klein at Wallhaven. Amidst the stacks of paper and books, Dye unearthed a page from a photo album displaying the style of badge he had purchased. But Dye had more than just a photo of the badge. He had a link to one of the APD’s most interesting historic characters.

Behind the sepia photo of Officer Marvin Galloway — rare indeed a century ago, because policemen rarely posed or could afford a professional photo — was the story of a 30-year-old man whom the City had hired as a “merchant policeman” in October 1900. That job title reflected the fact that his salary — \$60 per month — was paid half by the municipal government and half by the merchants Galloway protected.

The job was a step up for the young machinist who had been apprenticed to Akron’s Webster, Camp, and Lake Machine Company and had been earning \$1 for every 10-hour workday!

In 1918, Galloway was promoted to sergeant. During the city’s “roaring ‘20s,” he became the first head of the Vice Squad. Having distinguished himself for corralling



Officer Marvin Galloway, a formal portrait taken after he joined the force in 1900.


gamblers, bootleggers and prostitutes, Galloway became known for his good judgment. He was given the important job of determining when the city’s streetlights would be turned on.

This was no small matter. The city’s light bill was \$3,000 per month.

Worse, the City was six months behind in payments to Northern Ohio Traction & Light. To reduce the demand for lighting, Galloway alone could determine when there was enough moonlight to turn the streetlights off, saving the city money.

As a police captain, Marvin Galloway hailed by the newspapers as a boss who insisted on courtesy being displayed by his men, and he championed physical fitness for police officers.

He retired in 1930, never having competed for the post of police chief. As a fervent Republican, Galloway ran and lost his one and only race for public office — that of sheriff of Summit County.

In later years, Galloway was heralded as a man who made “hoodlums tremble in their boots at the very mention of his name,” but the irony was that these words were recalled when thieves (obviously unfamiliar with his reputation) ransacked the pensioner’s house while he was away. His name and reputation live on however in the files of the APD and in the Police Museum on Sough High Street. 



Capt. Galloway and the Akron Police Department at his retirement in June 1930.



Sgt. Tom Dye and Lt. James Buie view historic items at Akron’s police museum.

THE AKRON POLICE MUSEUM IS OPEN

by chance and by appointment.

It is located on the mezzanine of the Akron Police Department, 217 S. High Street, at University Avenue.

Groups are invited to call for a reservation. Tours are escorted by retired police officers. For more information, call Community Relations, 330-375-2390.

Victorian Splendor Lives On In This Akron Landmark

By Russ Musarra, Illustration by Chuck Ayers

Artist Chuck Ayers and writer Russ Musarra began their series of essays, based on walks around the community, in March 1987 in the Akron Beacon Journal's Sunday magazine. Ayers, a former Beacon Journal artist and editorial cartoonist, created the comic strip "Crankshaft" with Tom Batiuk. Musarra has combined his interests in history and writing into a career spanning 48 years, including reporting duties at both the Beacon Journal and the now-defunct Cleveland Press.

A child at the school across the street called the building Cinderella's castle. Her mother said it reminded her more of the spooky setting of *Beauty and the Beast*.

In fact, the red brick structure that looms at the northeast corner of Union and Perkins streets was once a haunted house. But that is a brief chapter in the history of the 54-room office building erected in 1896 by Paul E. Werner. It was also headquarters for the Werner Printing and Lithographing Co., which for a short time was among the nation's largest producers of encyclopedias, dictionaries, texts and other books.

That company failed in 1909 — in part because of litigation in which the *Encyclopedia Britannica* charged that the printer had pirated material. Werner lost the suit and had to pay more than \$1 million in damages.

From the 1940s through the 1970s, it was home to the Enterprise Manufacturing Company, which was started in 1881 by Ernest F. Pflueger and grew to become one of the nation's largest producers of fishing tackle.

Today, it is home to Famous Supply, a wholesale supplier of plumbing and

heating supplies.

Artist Chuck Ayers and I first admired the building from across the street at the Edge Academy, the charter school that opened at the southwest corner of Union and Perkins in 2002.

Then we examined it more closely, searching for the best angle from which to show it before discovering that the Werner name still occupies the sandstone lintel above the main entrance.

But bigger surprises awaited within.

The high-ceilinged lobby is rich with dark mahogany and has a mosaic floor that tells the story of the building's original use. Its symbols, a book press and an owl, are displayed along with the aphorism "Knowledge Is Power."

The lobby, with its broad staircase leading to the upper floors, looked nothing like this when Famous Supply bought it at a sheriff's sale in 1979, says president Jay Blauschild.

"It cost a fortune, but it was fun," Blauschild says, adding, "We should preserve our heritage."

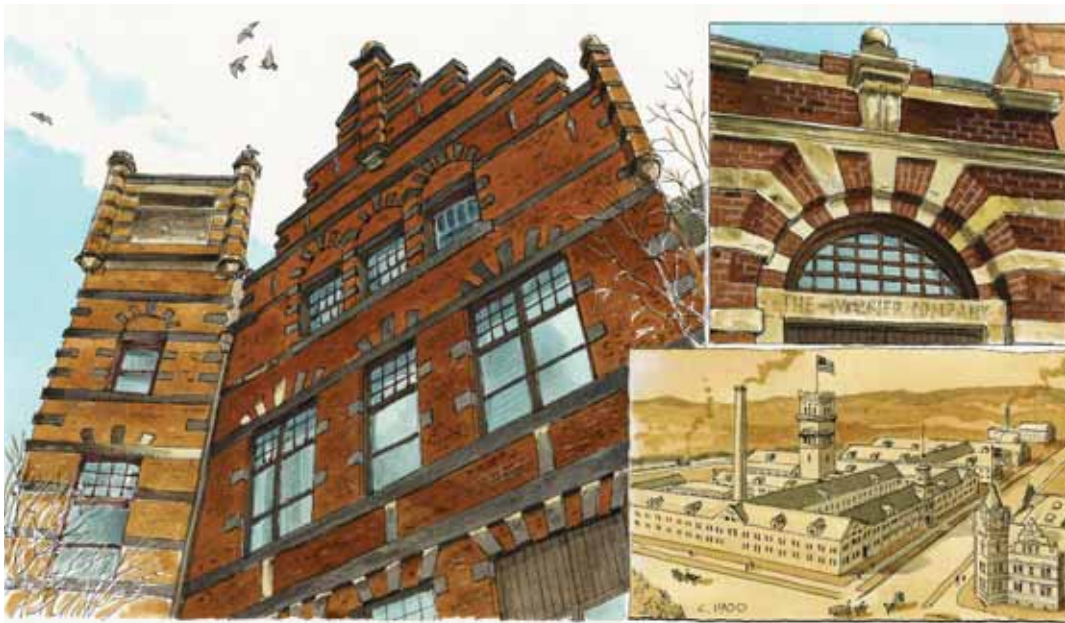
Paul E. Werner would likely have agreed.

His home at 282 West Market Street was the scene of spectacular Fourth of July celebrations. Werner, a native of Württemberg, Germany, was the principal backer of the German-American Music Hall, which for many years stood at High and Exchange streets. He also edited the German-American newspaper *Germania* until shortly before his death in 1931.

Pflueger was also a German-American, a native of Baden who came to Akron in 1868 and ran a grocery store on Howard Street before he became a manufacturer. He ran the company until his death in 1900. His son, Ernest A. Pflueger, worked for Enterprise until 1906, then left to start his own company, which consolidated in 1913 with the firm his father started.

The name Pflueger doesn't appear on the office building, but many still call it the Pflueger Building.

And many don't call it anything. **GA**



News

E-HEAP Spells Heat And Help This Winter Season

By Billy Soule

It has become a familiar refrain. Cold winter, followed by higher home-heating bills.

This year, more Akron families will try to meet their everyday needs with fewer dollars. Many families may have to face the horrible dilemma: Stay warm this winter or buy groceries or pay medical bills.

Families who find themselves overwhelmed by the cost of heating their homes can contact Akron Summit Community Action, Inc., to see if they qualify for the Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (E-HEAP), which continues through March 31.


Malcolm Costa, CEO of Akron Summit Community Action, explains: "HEAP is designed to prevent complications related to cold weather. Emergency HEAP is a way to address basic or short-term needs while we try to help people deal with long-term solutions, such as finding employment or obtaining job training."

The program will pay up to \$175 for qualified families whose utility service has been disconnected and up to \$175 for people currently on a selected payment plan but with a disconnection notice from their gas or electric company (or both). Others – even those who are not on a selected payment plan – may qualify for a payment of 15 percent of the past month's gross income, up to \$175, if they have a disconnection notice from their gas and or electric utility.

Other qualified applicants may receive up to \$250 to fill the tank with bulk fuel in case the family has less than a 10-day supply, or up to \$175 for families who have less than a 10-day supply of wood or coal (if either of those are used as the primary heating source).

E-HEAP may also provide up to \$175 toward the replacement or repair of the primary heating system for homeowners. Income guidelines apply.

For customers whose service is already turned off, the easiest way to obtain assistance is to go directly to the E-HEAP office, 250 Opportunity Parkway, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Walk-ins are accepted Mondays only.

To make an appointment or to see if you qualify, call the toll-free E-HEAP appointment line, 866-504-7400. 

This Incubator Gives Jump-Start To Young Businesses In Akron

By Victoria Reynolds

As engines of American economic growth, small businesses take the lead. Small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all employers and provide the majority of new jobs each year.

Unfortunately, about 70 percent of all small businesses fail within two years, typically because cash flow is a big problem.

But the good news is that many savvy cities offer business incubation programs to assist small firms during the startup stage. Akron is one such city.

The Akron Industrial Incubator, at 526 S. Main Street, is Ohio's largest business incubator – and one of the nation's best. Formed in 1983 as a non-profit organization by the City of Akron, The University of Akron, the Akron Development Corporation and the State of Ohio, it houses 22 fledgling technology and manufacturing companies.

To join the incubator, entrepreneurs must have a business with a commercially focused product, service or technology, as well as meet other criteria. The incubator assists these firms during their early "lean years" with financial and business planning, market evaluations, referrals, secretarial services, lab facilities and other services – all of which are free, except for the discounted office rent.

After three years, businesses are gently pushed from the nest. The National Business Incubation Association studies show that small businesses graduating from an incubator are four times more likely to survive than other startups.


In July 2003, the Economic Development Administration invested \$1.75 million to enhance Akron's incubator with conference rooms, wet and mechanical labs and upscale modular office space. The 100,000-square-foot expansion begins in early 2005 and by year's end will enlarge the existing 146,000-square-foot facility to almost 250,000 square feet.



Michael Le Here of the Akron Industrial Incubator

Director Michael LeHere notes that to date, the Akron Industrial Incubator boasts a consistent occupancy rate of 75 percent. Graduating businesses have increased our community's wealth by commercializing new technologies and creating more than 700 new jobs since 1995. Clearly, the incubator has been a great success.

"That's because of the support we've received from the City, the university, the private sector and the community," says LeHere. "This goes a long way to help an entrepreneur realize a dream to launch a successful business, bring a product, technology or service to market and create jobs for the community."

For information about the Akron Industrial Incubator, call 330-375-2173. Or visit www.akronincubator.com. 



By Russ Musarra

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Seventeen months ago, I wrote about **MARVIN PHILLIPS** and his dream of expanding Food For Thought, his midday nonfiction book discussion group at the Northwest Branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library.

I last reported on Phillips in the monthly newspaper *Focus on Boomers and Beyond*, for which Phillips himself writes a column titled *In My Mind's Eye*. I profiled Phillips' background in education and theater. He's retired from The University of Akron, where he was an administrator, taught speech at Kent State University and was director of theater at the University of Chicago, where in 1955 he founded the still-thriving Court Theatre.

Phillips' dream is to expand the "menu" of Food For Thought to include music, one-act plays and other performances — all delivered over lunch. He took the first step in October with two staged readings of Oscar Wilde's *Salome* at the Northwest Branch by a troupe he calls the Food For Thought Players.

Lunch wasn't served. But the play's three sponsors — the City of Akron Recreation Bureau, the Northwest Branch and Focus — provided refreshments after the performances. Even before the opening lines were read, Phillips reported to his cast that he had been asked to stage the show elsewhere. Details are being worked out.

The players in the inaugural productions included **MARCI PAOLUCCI** in the title role, **HENRY BISHOP** as King Herod, **ALICE PHILLIPS** (the director's wife) as Queen Herodias and, in various supporting roles, **LESLIE MCCREA**, **GLADYS HALL ROSSI**, **DALE COONS**, **DON SMITH**, **IRV KORMAN**, Phillips and this writer.

Other plays Phillips hopes to present are *Othello*, *Lysistrata*, *Our American Cousin* and *John Brown's Body*. For details, call him at Focus, 330-873-9333.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Fire Lt. **JOSEPH NATKO** and Police

Officer **CAROL HILL** were in the spotlight as Akron employees of the month for July and August, respectively.

JOSEPH NATKO began his career as a firefighter-medic in 1991. Five years later, he was assigned to Ladder Company No. 7 to help develop the Technical Rescue Operations Team (TROT), which specializes in high-angle rope rescue and confined-space, building-collapse and trench rescue. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1997.



As a team leader for technical-rescue operations for the Akron Fire Department and Summit County, Natko prepares and troubleshoots procedures with team members from Akron, Summit County and other Ohio communities. He has represented Akron in county and state emergencies, and he also participates as an instructor in a variety of training programs around Ohio. His hobbies are hunting and golfing.

Natko and **MELISSA**, his wife of 13 years, live in the Ellet area with daughters **BRANDI**, 11, and **CANDICE**, 8, and son **JOEY**, 3. The family attends the Chapel on Fir Hill.

CAROL HILL's August recognition was an anniversary gift of sorts. She became an Akron police officer in August 1995. In her current assignment on the Information Desk, she is often a citizen's first contact with the police department.



Whether taking information from people filing reports or dealing with angry citizens whose vehicles have been towed or whose family member has been arrested, Officer Hill remains calm, pleasant, polite and professional. She is described as thorough and competent in dealing with her

multitask assignment and was commended for her daily display of a personal work ethic and professionalism.

Officer Hill represented the United States while in high school, running track in Europe with the International Sports Exchange. She has participated in Corporate Challenge and Police Olympics during her nine years in the department. She earned an associate of arts degree and bachelor's degree in social work and worked in that field before deciding to follow in her father's footsteps by becoming a police officer.

The honoree and her husband, **HEATH**, married on Valentine's Day 2000 and are the proud parents of **KeSHAWN**, 4, and **KEITH**, 3. Officer Hill loves sports and spending time with family and friends.

CHEERS FOR A COMEBACK STORY

They're talking about Akron's Lane-Wooster-City View neighborhood all over Northern Ohio these days thanks to the ongoing revitalization efforts that are replacing drugs, crime and dilapidated housing with custom-designed, single-family, homes — more than 90 to date — and desirable business and civic activity.

The exceptional teamwork among builders, business and community leaders was applauded by Northern Ohio Live magazine, which included the effort in its 2004 Awards of Achievement. The revitalization team headed by Mayor **DON PLUSQUELLIC** includes City Council President **MARCO SUMMERVILLE**, Planning Director **WARREN WOOLFORD**, Deputy Service Director **LUNZY ARMSTRONG** and project manager **JIM HALL**, who oversees the architects and designers.

The comeback story began with the demolition of a vacant school in 1994. Points of community pride include the Ed Davis Community Center, Miller South School for the Performing Arts, the \$2,400,000 Lane-Miller South Sports Complex and a spruced-up library branch. Still to come are the Akron Urban League's \$6 million headquarters and a new elementary school, which is to open in 2006. **Q**



A family enjoys the holiday memories and warm glow of the animated store windows at the O'Neil's building on South Main Street. Through December 31st, families can visit the month-long Chriskindl Market at Lock 3 Park, featuring 23 German artisans from Akron's sister city, Chemnitz, Germany. The artists are working in specially built cottages and will be selling their hand-made toys, ornaments, dolls, lace, candles and linens. Lock 3 Park also features an ice skating rink, complete with a Zamboni and skate rental through January 17th.



Akron City Magazine was made possible through the generosity of these caring sponsors...

